



A Systems Approach to Planetary Health  
IPEP 305/505 - Fall, 2023  
1-3 credit hours

## Course Description

A systems approach to Planetary Health is an Undergraduate/Graduate interdisciplinary 1 - 3 credit elective course which introduces the conceptual foundations of systems thinking and complexity through topics in human and environmental health. The course provides an overview of Planetary Health Science and students will investigate specific ways our human health and well-being is interconnected with nature, the planet and each other. Students will gain insights into the historic and ongoing effects of systemic injustice on regional, national, and global health and environmental health. They will apply the values of equity and social justice while investigating strategies in movement building and systems change that health professionals and community planners can use with populations in their care. Students will also have an opportunity to explore ways they can apply Planetary Health concepts in their own personal and professional lives. Students will engage in discussions and readings that envision a healthy and sustainable future for planetary and human health. This is an interdisciplinary course, so students will have the opportunity to study and discuss the work of community organizers, prevention and policy leaders, the public and global health professionals, and environmental health work in research, leadership, education, practice, and policy.

## Instructor Information

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She/Her/Hers

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## Instructor Response Time

### Communication

We routinely check the course 1-2 times a day, Monday – Friday and periodically on the weekends. If you have a question or concern, please contact Dr. Honegger Rogers through email, or if urgent, through cell or text.

### Grading

Assignments will be graded within 1 week of the due date in most cases. We will email the class if there is a delay in grading for any reason.

## Course Overview

### Course Purpose

This course will support students to develop an understanding of and appreciation for: The sheer scale of Anthropocene era environmental change and its impacts on human health, and the urgency which this presents to humankind, human interdependence on thriving and healthy ecosystems and the recognition that human stewardship of the Earth is a primary determinant of future population health, the role that community organizing and movement building plays in the political process at various scales, from local to global, and the burdens of the environmental and health impacts of a changing planet that are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations, including low-income countries, island nations, Indigenous peoples, and young and future generations.

### Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the causes and consequences of planetary change and its impact on the human condition.
2. Apply strategies for movement building and system change when responding to planetary health related problems.
3. Engage a critical lens, foregrounding socioeconomic factors, and political and cultural context, when evaluating the effects of environmental change on human health.
4. Identify policies and management strategies that optimize human health while maintaining sustainable natural systems.
5. Apply systems thinking tools and techniques in complex situations.

## Prerequisites

None

## Variable Credit Graduate/Undergraduate expectations

All students will engage in reading, lectures, resource exploration, facilitated online discussion, Mini-Assignments, and a varying participation in project work for all modules (1 Credit UG/G, with graduate students expected to post additional discussion summaries). Students who are taking 2 credits will add reflection assignments (one for each module) that further explore readings, with graduate students expected to integrate additional writing, references, and resources. Students who are taking the course for 3 credits will have additional responsibilities for a group systems thinking project, that will build over the course.

## Course Orientation

All orientation information can be found in Canvas via the Home page > “Student Resources” link and in the first module in this online course.

## Web Access

- To log in to the course, go to: <https://canvas.unm.edu/> and log in using your UNM NetID.
- Detailed information and instructions for use of Canvas can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

## Zoom (web conferencing)

We may have optional Zoom meetings this semester. These meetings are encouraged, but not required. They will be recorded for later viewing.

For the online ZOOM sessions, you will need:

- Most newer laptops and computers have a mic/speaker built in, but you may want a USB headset with microphone and web camera. Quality entry models are available at retail stores or online.
- A high-speed internet connection is highly recommended for these sessions. A wireless internet connection may be used if successfully tested for audio quality prior to web conferencing.

What is Zoom? Zoom is a user-friendly video-conferencing interface. Your first Zoom use will require that you download and install Zoom (free) on your computer. This will take a few minutes. You will find more information about Zoom on the 'Zoom Meetings' page in our online course.

## Textbooks

### Required Textbooks

Planetary Health: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves

- August 2020
- DOI:10.5822/978-1-61091-966-1
- Publisher: Island Press
- ISBN: 9781610919661

Also as part of APA mastery, visit/bookmark the following page: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/> Maintained by Purdue University, it is an excellent resource on use of APA, writing resources, and guides for grammar/writing style.

Selected Web Sites with a focus on Planetary Health: [Planetary Health Alliance](#)  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
[World Health Organization Climate Change and Health](#)

## Assessment and Grading

### Instructor Expectations

We will give each of you 100% of our commitment to help you successfully complete our class, and we expect 100% of your commitment to this class, which includes reading the textbook, using the resources available in UNM Canvas, watching videos, participating in discussions, completing your assignments, working on your group project, and reviewing your graded assignments and following up with questions to the instructor.

### Grade Weighting

1 Credit course	Percent of final grade
Discussions (8)	50%
Mini Assignment (8)	20%
Project Work	30%
TOTAL	100%

2 and 3 Credit course	Percent of final grade
Discussions (8)	35%
Mini Assignment (8)	10%
Reflections (8)	20%

Project Work (responsibilities specified per credits taken)	35%
TOTAL	100%

### Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned based on the following course grading schedule:

98-100	A+	93-97	A	90-92	A-
87-89	B+	83-86	B	80-82	B-
77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
67-69	D+	63-66	D	60-62	D-
> 62	F				

## Grading Rubrics

Grading rubrics for assignments, discussions, projects, and other graded work can be found in Canvas on the "Grading Rubrics" Page. All assignments must be turned in on time, students will lose 3 points per day for late assignments

## Exams/Quizzes

There are no exams or quizzes in this course.

## Class Participation

Attendance is expected at all classes. For on-line courses this means completing the weekly work and participating regularly in the web discussions. Students who fail to regularly participate may be dropped from the class by the instructor. Students are expected to participate in all online discussions in a timely manner and turn in assignments and reflections on time.

## Discussion Posting Expectations

Refer to the discussion posting rubric posted on the 'Grading Rubrics' page in Canvas These are also included in the course schedule.

# Course Expectations and UNM Policies

## Course Schedule

See course schedule posted in Canvas. Find the 'Schedule' button on the course Home Page.

## Course Format

The course will be taught utilizing a variety of instructional methods, including seminar style discussions, possible synchronous group discussions, occasional written exemplars/mini lectures from the instructors, and written assignments. NOTE: You are responsible for learning how to use Canvas and navigate the course. If you need assistance with this, you will need to contact the IT resources/ personnel listed in the course.

## Course Requirements

All course assignments must be completed and turned in on time. Late work will not be accepted unless special arrangements have been made in advance with your instructor. Incomplete grades in the course are only offered without penalty under the most extreme circumstances - for example, hospitalized with a serious illness in the last two weeks of class. All other requests for incompletes will be considered on an individual basis. Approved incompletes will require a completion contract, must be resolved prior to the end of the next semester, and will result in a 5-point penalty off the final grade. Unresolved incompletes will result in a course grade of "F".

Course communication between faculty and students will be done through the Canvas communication tools. Students will be held responsible for information posted on this system.

A student must fulfill all requirements of the course prior to receiving a grade. A three credit course delivered in an

entirely online modality over 16 weeks translates to 9 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments. A two credit course translates to 6 hours per week and a one credit course translates to 3 hours per week.

## Respectful and Responsible Learning

We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely, honestly, and equitably. Submitting material as your own work that has been generated on a website, in a publication, by an artificial intelligence algorithm, by another person, or by breaking the rules of an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty. It is a student code of conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. *Please ask me for help in finding the resources you need to be successful in this course. I can help you use study resources responsibly and effectively.* Off-campus paper writing services, problem-checkers and services, websites, and AIs can be incorrect or misleading. Learning the course material depends on completing and submitting your own work. UNM preserves and protects the integrity of the academic community through multiple policies including policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>).

Support: Many students have found that time management workshops or work with peer tutors can help them meet their goals. These and are other resources are available through [Student Learning Support](#) at the Center for Teaching and Learning.

## Netiquette Ground Rules

See [Netiquette Ground Rules document](#) which is also posted in your course on the 'Resources > Course Information Documents' page. Use proper grammar and spelling (type your postings in Word or another word processing program first in order to use spell check then copy and paste into Canvas- this will also save you retyping it if should happen in Canvas with your posting).

## Drop and Withdrawal Policy

The instructor may drop students who do not appear in class or do not complete required activities by the end of the first full week of the course. The instructor may also drop a student during the term if a student fails or misses assignments or an exam and does not contact the instructor within one week of the failed/ missed assignment or exam. Students are responsible for completing all courses in which they are enrolled. Changes in enrollment, drops or withdrawals must be officially processed. A student who does not follow proper withdrawal procedures may be given a failing grade and is responsible for tuition charges associated with the course.

Deadlines for course withdrawals are established by the UNM Registrar's Office and may be found at <http://registrar.unm.edu/>. Any student considering dropping should first consult with the instructor and academic advisor.

See UNM policy for add/drop and withdrawals in the UNM Catalog <http://catalog.unm.edu/> and click on Student Services Information link and scroll down to Changes in Enrollment section.

## Title IX

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns

about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>. Support: [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#), the [Women's Resource Center](#), and the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#) all offer confidential services.



## Copyright

All materials in this course fall under copyright laws and should not be downloaded, distributed, or used by students for any purpose outside this course.

## Accessibility

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the [UNM Accessibility Resource Center](#) in 2021 Mesa Vista Hall at 505-277-3506. Information about your disability is confidential.

## UNM Resources

The educational programs of UNM aim to provide optimal support so that students learn well, maintain physical and emotional health. The course instructor is always the first person to contact when students have questions or need help within the course, such as assignments, grades, group projects, etc.

### Connecting to Campus and Finding Support:

UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including [opportunities to get involved](#), [mental health resources](#), [academic support including tutoring](#), [resource centers](#) for your community, [graduate resources](#), free food at [Lobo Food Pantry](#), and [jobs on campus](#). Your advisor, staff at the [resource centers](#) and [Dean of Students](#), and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

### Military Connected Students

There are resources on campus designed to help you succeed. You can approach any faculty or staff for help with any issues you may encounter. Many faculty and staff have completed the GREEN ZONE training to learn about the unique challenges facing military-connected students. If you feel that you need help beyond what faculty and/or staff can give you, please reach out to the [Veterans Resource Center](#) on campus at 505-277-3181, or by email at [vrc@unm.edu](mailto:vrc@unm.edu).

### Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

[UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion](#) [UNM Land and Labor Acknowledgements](#)

It is our intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is our intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let us know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

## Technical Considerations

It is important to have regular access to a laptop or desktop computer with reliable internet access to complete assignments and activities for this course. Information about the supported browsers and computer requirements for Canvas are found at this site, <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66>. And on the Home Page in your Canvas course, there is a link to the Canvas Mobile Guides which give students more information about the Canvas mobile app.

### Canvas Tracking

Canvas automatically records all students' activities in the course: your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the number of discussion messages you have read and sent, chat room discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty.

### Course Interruptions and Scheduled Maintenance

**In the Event of an Unexpected Course Interruption:** If Canvas is down on the day an assignment or exam is due, the instructor will notify students of a new due date.

### Scheduled Maintenance

Canvas has a regularly scheduled maintenance window twice a month. However, the Canvas user(s) – students and faculty – may only experience downtime for a few to several minutes. Anyone can subscribe to updates via the status page and searching for the name of their Canvas account (canvas.unm.edu).

In addition, UNM IT conducts general system maintenance that affects multiple systems on campus, including Canvas a few times a year. Announcements for these periodic maintenance windows are normally posted in Canvas two weeks ahead of time to notify users of planned outages. Students are reminded to plan ahead as they will not have access to Canvas during these outages.

**Student Course Access at the End of Term/Semester** Canvas is available for 2 weeks after the end of the course. After 2 weeks, students will no longer have course access

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